

Lessons Learnt Briefing Paper: Vanuatu Klaemet Infomesen blong redy, adapt mo protekt (VanKIRAP) Project – Game Changer Benchmark Project

Introduction

The Vanuatu Klaemet Infomesen blong redy, adapt mo protekt (VanKIRAP) project, funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and jointly implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department (VMGD), has been a pioneering initiative in strengthening climate resilience in Vanuatu. By delivering tailored climate information services (CIS) to key sectors—agriculture, fisheries, tourism, water, and infrastructure—the project has supported decision-making and fostered resilient development outcomes.

The Vanuatu Klaemet Infomesen blong redy, adapt mo protekt (VanKIRAP) project stands out as a unique and transformative initiative in the Pacific region due to its innovative, holistic, and user-centric approach to delivering climate information services (CIS).

Below are the key factors that distinguish VanKIRAP from other climate information services projects in the Pacific:

1. Sector-Specific Tailoring of Climate Information

- **Uniqueness:** VanKIRAP is one of the few projects that has systematically tailored climate information to meet the specific needs of multiple sectors—agriculture, fisheries, tourism, water, and infrastructure. See: <https://www.pacific-met.net/climate-information-services-cis-directory>
- **Impact:** By providing sector-specific forecasts, early warnings, and adaptation strategies, the project has enabled stakeholders to make informed decisions that directly address their vulnerabilities.
- **Comparison:** Many other CIS projects in the Pacific provide generalized climate data, which often lacks the specificity required for sectoral decision-making.

2. Integration of Traditional Knowledge with Scientific Data

- **Uniqueness:** VanKIRAP uniquely integrates traditional ecological knowledge with modern scientific climate data, ensuring that information is both culturally relevant and scientifically robust.
- **Impact:** This approach has increased trust and adoption of climate information among local communities, particularly in rural and remote areas.
- **Comparison:** While some projects acknowledge traditional knowledge, few have systematically combined it with scientific data to enhance the relevance and accuracy of CIS.

3. Strong Focus on Community Engagement and Ownership

- Uniqueness: VankIRAP places a strong emphasis on community engagement, ensuring that climate information is co-developed with end-users and delivered in local languages.
- Impact: This participatory approach has fostered a sense of ownership among communities, leading to higher uptake and utilization of climate information.
- Comparison: Many other projects in the region focus on top-down dissemination of information, which often results in limited community engagement and adoption.

4. Multi-Sector Collaboration and Coordination

- Uniqueness: VankIRAP is distinguished by its collaborative approach, involving multiple government agencies, private sector stakeholders, and community groups across different sectors.
- Impact: This cross-sector coordination has maximized the project's impact, ensuring that climate information is integrated into broader development planning and decision-making processes.
- Comparison: Other CIS projects often operate in silos, with limited coordination between sectors, reducing their overall effectiveness.

5. Emphasis on Long-Term Capacity Building

- Uniqueness: VankIRAP has invested heavily in building the capacity of local institutions, such as the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department (VMGD), to generate, interpret, and disseminate climate information.
- Impact: This focus on institutional strengthening ensures the sustainability of CIS beyond the project's lifespan.
- Comparison: Many other projects prioritize short-term outputs over long-term capacity building, leading to dependency on external support.

6. Innovative Communication and Dissemination Strategies

- Uniqueness: VankIRAP has pioneered innovative communication methods, such as using radio broadcasts, mobile networks, and community-based messengers, to reach remote and underserved populations.
- Impact: These strategies have ensured that even the most vulnerable communities have access to timely and actionable climate information.
- Comparison: Other projects often rely on conventional communication channels, which may not effectively reach remote or marginalized groups.

7. Holistic Approach to Resilience Building

- Uniqueness: VankIRAP adopts a holistic approach that goes beyond providing climate information to include actionable adaptation strategies and resilience-building measures.
- Impact: This comprehensive approach has enabled communities and sectors to not only understand climate risks but also take concrete steps to mitigate them.
- Comparison: Many CIS projects focus solely on data provision without linking it to actionable adaptation or resilience-building measures.

8. Alignment with National and Regional Development Goals

- Uniqueness: VanKIRAP is closely aligned with Vanuatu's National Adaptation Plan (NAP), National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP), and regional frameworks like the Pacific Meteorological Council's Strategy.
- Impact: This alignment ensures that the project contributes to national and regional priorities, enhancing its relevance and impact.
- Comparison: Other projects may lack such strong alignment with national and regional development goals, limiting their long-term impact.

9. Focus on Gender and Social Inclusion

- Uniqueness: VanKIRAP has a strong focus on gender and social inclusion, ensuring that climate information reaches women, youth, and other marginalized groups.
- Impact: This inclusive approach has empowered vulnerable groups to participate in decision-making processes and take proactive measures to build resilience.
- Comparison: Many CIS projects in the Pacific do not explicitly address gender and social inclusion, leading to unequal access to climate information.

10. Scalability and Replicability

- Uniqueness: VanKIRAP's model is designed to be scalable and replicable across other Pacific Island countries, with its lessons and tools being shared regionally.
- Impact: This approach has positioned VanKIRAP as a regional leader in climate resilience, inspiring similar initiatives in other countries.
- Comparison: While some projects share lessons, few are designed from the outset to be scalable and replicable across different contexts.

VanKIRAP's unique combination of sector-specific tailoring, community engagement, traditional knowledge integration, and innovative communication strategies sets it apart from other climate information services projects in the Pacific. Its holistic and inclusive approach has not only enhanced resilience in Vanuatu but also provided a replicable model for other countries in the region. By addressing both immediate and long-term needs, VanKIRAP exemplifies how climate information services can drive transformative change in vulnerable communities.

This uniqueness makes VanKIRAP a benchmark for future climate resilience projects in the Pacific and beyond.

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